

Istanbul, Turkey

Two continents, one shore day. Istanbul stacks 2,500 years of empire — Byzantine domes, Ottoman minarets, spice-scented bazaars, and a stunning Bosphorus approach — right outside the world's first underground cruise terminal.

-  Docked — Galataport, Karaköy
-  Typical call: 10-14 hrs
-  Turkish Lira (cards widely accepted)
-  Turkish (English common in tourist areas)

MY DAY IN PORT

Ship/Date:	Arrive:	All aboard:
Excursion:	Notes:	

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: Galataport, Karaköy — underground terminal, steps from the city

Best For: History, mosques, bazaars, Bosphorus views, modern art

Walk to Old City: T1 tram from Karaköy to Sultanahmet (4 stops, ~10 min)

Don't Miss: Hagia Sophia upper gallery (€25, go at 9 AM); fish sandwich at Eminönü

 Getting around:  **Taxi**  ~\$5–\$15 USD to nearby areas ·  **Rideshare**  Uber ·  **Hop-on hop-off**  Hop-on hop-off

TOP THINGS TO DO

- Hagia Sophia & Blue Mosque** — The two defining monuments of Istanbul face each other across Sultanahmet Square.
- Topkapi Palace** — The Ottoman sultans' imperial palace overlooks the Bosphorus at the tip of the Old City.
- Grand Bazaar & Spice Market** — The Grand Bazaar (Kapalıçarşı) is one of the world's oldest covered markets — 60 streets, 4,000+ shops.
- Bosphorus Cruise** — A 90-minute public ferry from Eminönü runs up the Bosphorus past Ottoman yalı mansions, Rumeli Fortress, and the two...
- Basilica Cistern** — The 6th-century Byzantine underground cistern (Yerebatan Sarnıcı) was fully renovated and reopened in 2022 with...

BEST WALKS

- Sultanahmet Heritage Walk** 2.5 km · 1.5–2 hrs · Easy (mostly flat with gentle rises) — The classic Old City loop.
- Galata & Karaköy Waterfront Walk** 2 km · 1 hr · Easy (one uphill stretch to tower) — Walk straight off the ship along the Galataport promenade, past the Istanbul Modern Museum, to the Galata Bridge.

WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

 **CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)**

Mon	High	Low	Rain
Apr	61°	48°	9d
Jun	78°	65°	8d
Aug	85°	72°	3d
Sep	78°	66°	7d
Oct	68°	58°	7d

 **DAYLIGHT &  MONEY**

Apr 6:25AM–7:43PM · Jun 5:31AM–8:37PM · Aug 6:14AM–8:02PM · Sep 6:45AM–7:13PM · Oct 7:15AM–6:23PM

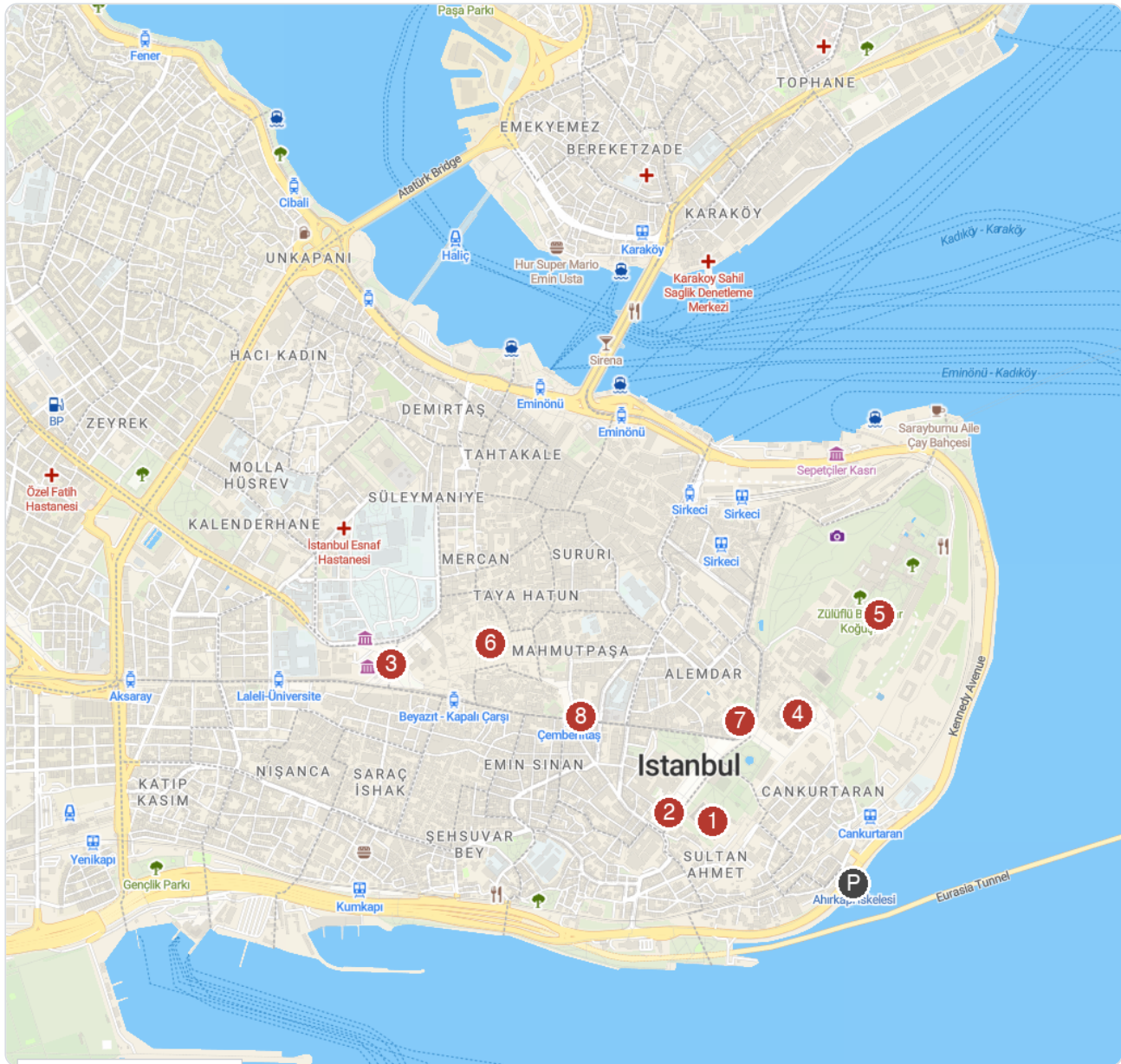
KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Hagia Sophia — plan around prayer times: The tourist upper gallery closes on Fridays 12:30–2:30 PM for congregational prayers and briefly around other daily prayer times. Arrive...
- Use Turkish Lira when you can — merchants accepting euros or USD apply poor exchange rates. ATMs at Galataport dispense...

Istanbul, Turkey — Port Map

cruiseports.org

Red = walkable sights · Amber = excursions farther out · P = cruise terminal. Numbers match the order you'd typically visit.



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|---------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|---|
| 1 The Blue Mosque | Iconic Ottoman mosque known for its blue tiles and six minarets. | 2 Serpent Column | Ancient Greek bronze column from Delphi, now in Hippodrome. |
| 3 Beyazit Square | Historic public square next to Istanbul University's main gate. | 4 Hagia Sophia Grand Mosque | Historic Byzantine church, then mosque, now a grand mosque again. |
| 5 Topkapi Palace Museum | Former Ottoman sultans' imperial residence, now a vast museum. | 6 Grand Bazaar | Historic, sprawling covered market for shopping and souvenirs. |
| 7 Basilica Cistern | Ancient underground Byzantine water reservoir with stunning columns. | 8 Cemberlitas Hammam | Historic 16th-century Ottoman Turkish bathhouse, still operating today. |
| P Cruise port / terminal | | | |